

Sophie Kauer Biography

Hailed by the Times as ‘a prodigious talent, that could blossom in any direction she chooses,’ and by renowned composer John Williams as ‘an extraordinary actor and consummate musician,’ Sophie Kauer’s cello playing is characterised by the ‘beautiful, sensual depths’ of its tone (Die Zeit), ‘impeccable technique and deep musicality’ (Richard Balcombe). With her debut EP, *Unsung*, recently released by Deutsche Grammophon, she became the youngest artist to reach no 1 on the Classical On-Demand Audio Streaming Chart. She is a Classic FM ‘Rising Star,’ has been nominated for an Opus Klassik Award, and was chosen by the Times as the Classical Breakthrough nominee for the 2023 South Bank Sky Arts Awards. She was named ‘One to Watch’ by People Magazine and a ‘Rising Star of Stage and Screen for 2023’ by the Evening Standard.

Sophie came to international attention when she was selected from hundreds of cellists worldwide for a leading role in the film *TÁR*, written and directed by Todd Field and starring Cate Blanchett. Sophie’s performance was praised as ‘a standout’ (The Face), ‘scene-stealing’ (Variety) and ‘star-making’ (TotalFilm) and won her a Best Supporting Actress award. Sophie played live in the film alongside the Dresdner Philharmonie, with her solos from the Elgar cello concerto described as ‘terrific’ by Leonard Slatkin, and by the Telegraph as ‘one of the highlights of the film’. She also later recorded music for the soundtrack album with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Natalie Murray Beale. Released by Deutsche Grammophon, it went to No.1 in the US Classical Billboard chart.

Recent highlights include solo and chamber music performances at the Bach300 Festival in Leipzig (broadcast on ARTE), alongside Lang Lang, Daniel Hope and Albrecht Meyer, Festspillene in Bergen, Saint- Saëns’ Cello Concerto No. 1 with Alondra de la Parra at the Paax GNP Festival in Mexico, the Elgar Cello Concerto with Gordon Hamilton and the Düsseldorfer Symphoniker, and solo and chamber recitals in Oslo as part of the Kalkmølla Kulturstasjon, Blaafarveværket, FRAM and Dextra Musica concert series’. Her upcoming 2024-25 season will see her perform at international concert venues, including Dukes Hall (London), Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall (Yerevan) and Oslo Konserthus. Sophie has commissioned various new pieces from female composers to premiere and also co organised a chamber music festival celebrating works by female composers at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, in a commitment to support underrepresented voices in classical music.

Sophie has performed live on BBC Radio 3 In Tune, ZDF’s MOMA Cafe and RBB as well as having been interviewed widely in the international print and broadcast media including the Times, Telegraph, New York Times, Die Zeit, Arte Magazin, Aftenposten, Gramophon, Strad, The Face, BBC News, SWR3, NRK, TV4, BR-Klassik, Deutschlandfunk Kultur, Sveriges Radio and NRK radio. She is supported by the ‘Scandinavian Cello School Young Artist Scheme’, is a current ‘Royal Philharmonic Society’s Julius Isserlis Scholarship’ holder, ‘Dextra Musica Artist’, and a previous ‘Hattori Foundation Junior Award’ recipient. Kauer is also an ambassador for the Cheryl King Trust, a charity dedicated to funding music tuition for financially disadvantaged children.

Born in London in 2001, to a British-German family, Sophie began playing the cello aged 8 and, just 18 months later, was accepted into the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music where she held a scholarship and had won all available prizes by the age of 16. From 13 to 18 years old she was also a private student of distinguished cello

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professor, Melissa Phelps and leading collaborative pianist and coach Alison Rhind. She is currently studying at the Norwegian Academy of Music in Oslo, in the class of world-renowned cellist Torleif Thedeén. She also receives contemporary music coaching from Peter Herresthal and duo coaching from Per Lundberg. She also has been fortunate to receive masterclasses from Andreas Brantelid, Henrik Brendstrup, Vilde Frang, Alban Gerhardt, Johannes Goritzki, Thomas Grossenbacher, Anssi Karttunen, Henning Kraggerud, Jacob Shaw, Kian Soltani, Troels Svane and Raphael Wallfisch.

Sophie plays on a modern cello made by Ragnar Hayn in 2020.

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